

(c) whether Government propose to dereserve some more items in small scale sector; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Major recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee, *inter alia* include enactment of a separate law for small enterprises, inclusion of service enterprises in the SSI fold, enhancement of investment limit for SSI units, promotion of technology development, further streamlining of the credit delivery systems and de-reservation of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small sector. The recommendations have been broadly accepted barring a few such as, enhancement of investment limit to Rs. 30 million and abolition of SSI reservation.

(c) and (d) The issue of reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI Sector is examined on a continual basis by the Advisory Committee on Reservation, which has been specifically constituted for this purpose under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Addition/deletion/change in nomenclature of items in the reservation list is made from time to time based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

KVIC projects for manufacturing bio-fertilizers

4542. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KVIC proposes to launch projects for manufacturing of bio-fertilizers and bio-medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange to be saved from these projects in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In order to

propagate manufacturing of bio-fertilizer, the KVIC have initiated action to identify pilot centres to provide facilities for demonstration, training, testing, etc. Moreover, under its Margin Money Scheme, the KVIC provides margin money to set up Khadi and Village industry units in rural areas including bio-fertilizer manufacturing units.

(c) Since the bio-fertilizer project is still in the initial stages, no estimates on the amount of foreign exchange, which can be saved, can be made.

National Plan for Rural Industries

†4543. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any national plan for rural industries;

(b) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has suggested some remedial measures for the said programme; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided that the programme of all the different agencies should converge at a particular point so as to further synergise the efforts. For brand promotion, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched two brands, namely, 'Khadi' and 'Sarvodaya' for the Khadi and Village Industries Products.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.